

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

12 November 1981

Honorable Peter W. Rodino, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

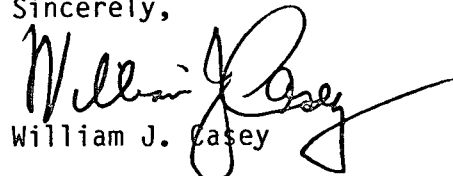
I have your letter of 4 November 1981 in which you renewed your request for a copy of the Administration's draft revision of Executive Order 12036 entitled "United States Intelligence Activities." I wish to reassure you that the Agency in no way wishes to thwart your Committee's legitimate oversight functions and responsibilities for the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

By the same token, I must respect the direction I have received from the White House, through the National Security Council, to consult solely with the two Intelligence Oversight Committees.

The comments we have received from the Select Committees, presumably incorporating on the House side the views of Representatives McClory and Mazzoli of your Committee, have been most helpful. I hope that you will find that your concerns have been addressed through these consultations and that the promulgated Executive Order is crafted so as to preserve the balance between the constitutional rights of our citizens while allowing us to present the President with the best possible intelligence product. I would note in closing that you may have been misled on one point: it was never contemplated that a new Executive Order would change the responsibilities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, nor those of the Justice Department.

Please be assured of my desire and that of the Intelligence Community to cooperate with you and your Committee to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,


William J. Casey